## The Quadruple Bank Robberies

By George M. A. Cain =

Jarvis, a young detective in the police department of Philadelphia, is meeting with no encouragement from his superlors. While reporting one night after 2 o'clock there is a terrific explosion, and the Cosmopolitan National Bank, a few minutes later telephone messages from Washing. Then I want you to keep them in sight of the driver said quietty. Where to are discovered to the driver said quietty. He began to wonder what he was units of could he pe to do nothing for Heath, Jarvis passed him a five-dollar bill. "Nowhere, until those two cars start. Then I want you to keep them in sight for me," he said.

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## CHAPTER XV.

VANDERDAM.

T WAS too late in the afternoon when he reached Washington for going either to the races or to the banks for arning about the examinations. Wherefore he went to a hotel and registered, then sought some place of amusement, seeing there was no more work to be

seeing there was no more work to be done.

He was rather pleased at the thought of having an evening off. It was an unusual circumstance. Ordinarily he must spend his evenings hard at work—more strenuously than his days.

He chose a comic opera from the lists presented in the evening papers. He felt that something thoroughly light and amusing might refresh his mind after its struggle with the difficult problems on which he was working.

He was a little surprised to find trouble in securing a seat. It was so early in the season that he supposed there would be room in any of the theaters.

theaters.

When he sat down in an orchestra seat well ferward, it was with some pricking of conscience for having spent so much on a ticket. He consoled himself with the thought that his present salary warranted a little mild extrava-

By the end of the first act he re-etted more than ever the two dollars had spent. He was, also, in a posi-on to guess the reason for the large

attendance.

And he reflected that the large attendance was a sad comment on the mental, if not the moral qualities of a big crowd of people. There was hardly a jest which did not owe its powers to win a laugh to the fact that it suggested something evil to evilly inclined winds.

durance.

He had picked up his hat and risen from his seat, when he saw a movement into one of the boxes which had hitherto been empty.

It was a party of men who entered the box. They were young men, yet upon the face of each were stamped the marks of dissipation. But it was the third face which attracted his attention.

tention.

For a moment he stared incredulously. It seemed that he must be mistaken. He could hardly believe that a face could have changed so much in the course of three or four years.

And yet he was not mistaken. The gross, fat, puffy, ugly countenance was none other than that of Dawson Vanderdam.

derdam.

And, if this had not been sufficiently shocking to keep him now in his place as a matter of business, there was an added reason why he felt called upon to remain to the end of the nauseous

as a matter of business, there was an added reason why he felt called upon to remain to the end of the nauseous production.

For, just behind the vice-distorted visage of Vanderdam he saw another face which he had only seen once before, and that this very morning. It was the weak-chinned, water-eyed, sallow countenance of Howard Heath.

Young Heath took his seat rather behind the shelter of the bloated figure of Vanderdam. Only occasional glances could the young detective get of the boyish face, still eager with the first arousement of vicious curiosity.

But what he saw was enough to convince him that Heath, like all the others, had been drinking. There was a filminess and fixity of the eye, a flush of the cheek that betokened a state of semi-intoxication. The rest were only mildly stimulated by what had already rendered the youngest of the party-rather beyond perfect self-control.

Twice during the rest of the second act, a page was sent to caution the box against bolsterousness and at the end of the act of the party arose to go out.

Quickly Jarvis passed out of the near-set entrance. He bought a box of cigarettes at the cafe on the corner of the foyer, and stood there to smoke one.

The five young men came in, ordered drinks, swallowed them hastily, and passed out into the street. They went around to the stage entrance, and were promptly admitted.

Not wishing to make himself known there and having no means for gaining admission without showing his detective's card, he went back into the theater, believing that the men would remain till the end of the show.

They came back into the box somewhere near the middle of the first signs of heavy intoxication.

A thousand miserable thoughts coursed through the brain of young Jarvis as he watched the real drama in the box quite to the exclusion of the coarse piece upon the stage.

He was looking upon the swift of the party as he noted their faces one after another, he could feel nothing but loathing. But his feeling for young Heath was one of pity.

Yerhaps, if it h

self.

But Howard Heath was the son of Jarvis' employer. What was still more important, he was the brother of that

Jarvis' employer. What was still more important, he was the brother of that employer's daughter.

And only too well did the young detective know that such a course as this youth was pursuing must lead him to disgrace that would descend upon the whole family.

Tet there was one grief in William Tarvis' heart that was even more polenant than that occasioned by the downfall of young Heath. It was the thought that the leader of this party of degenerates was a man of some interest to Alice Heath herseli.

His mind wandered into the future, and he thought of the misery that awaited the woman who should be wedded to such a man. It was all very real to him, for every one of the sorrows he foresaw was a sorrow for her whom he would have given everything in the world to make happy.

CHAPTER XVI.

VANDERDAM AND HEATH. JARVIS determined that it was his duty, while upon that line, to find out all that he could. Wherefore, when the show ended, he hurried out in the wake of the five young men of Vanderdam's box party.

They took their places in two automobiles and whirled about the corner of the theater to the stage entrance

once more, There they waited for a few moments.

for me," he said.

"All right—If they don't go too fast for me," the driver said quietly. He was sufficiently wise to avoid looking at the face of his fare.

Half a dozen girls came out of the stage entrance. The young men hailed their coming with loud shouts. The girls responded in kind, calling the men by familiar nicknames as nearly as Jarvis could overhear.

The five men helped the girls into the

as Jarvis could overhear.

The five men helped the girls into the automobiles. Then the party was off.

They went at reckless speed from the moment of starting. It was painfully evident that the taxicab could not keep up with them at the rate it was going. "Can't you move faster?" Jarvis asked anxiously.

For he saw Dawson Vanderdam standing beside the clerk's desk. The man was just finishing a momericary conversation evidently for he turned away in less than a minute.

"All right, Mr. Jones," the clerk was saying in reply to Vanderdam's last work.

and hoarser than before.

Two of the older young men were steadying Heath from the room. The son of the millionaire banker had reached the stage of maudlin self pity.

"Aw-come on—just a little game, boys," he whined miserably—"I dropped fifteen thousand on Doughboy this afternoon, boys. Gimme a chance 10 get something back—come on—won't you?"

"Aw, shut up, Dickle," the man growled thickly, "it's time for little boys to be abed. We'll lend you more in the morning if you need it."

They lee him out of the room into the foyer. From where he sat Jarvis could see that Heath was taken to the elevator. The two older young men came back and passed into the door beyond.

For half an hour the young detective sat with his head buried in his hands.

## evident that the taxical could not keep "Carl you move faster" Jarvis adea. "Carl you move faster" Jarvis adea. "Carl you move faster" Jarvis adea. "Carl you move faster" Jarvis bade him. "First I do mind. I haven't any money was to be arrested," the "Never mind that," Jarvis bade being "South of the form of the form

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